



three inches high and several feet long using their snout and mouth. Spawning begins in May. Eggs are deposited in the nest by one or more females over a period of two weeks and covered with gravel by the male as nest building continues. The male guards the nest against intruders.

### **Habitats**

interior rivers and streams; Mississippi River; Missouri River

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

statewide

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **creek chub**

*Semotilus atromaculatus*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Osteichthyes
Order:	Cypriniformes
Family:	Cyprinidae

### **Features**

The creek chub is stout with a broad, blunt head. It has a very large mouth and a small flap-like barbel (whisker-like projection) in the groove in the middle of the upper jaw. There is a black spot in the first three rays of the dorsal fin. It also has a wedged-shaped spot at the base of the tail. The back and sides vary from olive to purplish changing to silvery-white on the belly. A stripe runs from the tip of the snout through the eye to the base of the tail. Adults may reach 12 inches long.

### **Natural History**

The creek chub inhabits small to medium-sized streams with gravel bars. It can endure muddy water provided the current sweeps the gravel free of silt. It eats primarily insects and their larvae and other small aquatic animals. Creek chubs are one of the largest and most dominant fish in Iowa creeks and streams. Male creek chubs prepare a nest in a gravel-bottomed run by making a mound of gravel about